

# Workplace Alaska

## Class Specification

### Chemist I

**Created:**  
07/15/1997 by Rachel Wilson  
**Finalized on:**

**AKPAY Code:** P8331  
**Class Outline Cat:** B  
**Approved by:**

**Class Code:** PK0121  
**Class Range:** 14  
**Class Status:** Active

**Category:** Professional  
**Original Date:** 01/01/1979

**Class Title:** Chemist I  
**Use MJR Form:** Standard

**Original Comments:**  
ESTABLISHED

#### Subsequent Revision Dates/Comments:

11/09/2001 - Audited (cpreecs)  
09/25/2008 - Workplace AK spec revision: Added Census Job Code and AKPAY Code fields; Replaced Category field with Class Outline Category; Updated EEO4, SOC, and Class Code fields; Removed DOT field.

**Last Update:** 04/13/2009

**EEO4:** B

**SOC:** 19-2031

**Census:** 02

#### Last Update Comments:

Switch DC's & Examples of Duties sections(PMorrissey)

#### Definition:

The Chemist class series includes positions performing work that requires full professional education and training in the field of chemistry. Work is analytical in nature, involving investigation and interpretation of composition, molecular structure and properties of substances, transformations which they undergo, and the effects of such substances and transformations. Positions conduct a variety of analyses and present authoritative findings and conclusions. Work is primarily performed in laboratories.

Chemists develop, standardize or carry out methods and procedures for the analysis of compounds or substances, most commonly for the purposes of (1) detection, identification and quantification, (2) compliance with law, accepted standards or other requirements, (3) criminal investigation or law enforcement.

As chemistry is a broad field encompassing numerous branches and specialties, so this class is designed to be broad. All professional chemists have in common training and experience equivalent to the college training required for a bachelor's degree in chemistry. They are required to have knowledge of the broad field of chemistry and a working knowledge of basic principles of mathematics and physics, and the ability to relate and apply these principles to their work. The Chemist series covers all positions involving, for example, analytical chemistry, organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, biochemistry, geochemistry, criminalistics or forensic chemistry, or other specializations depending upon the particular functions and objectives of agencies where the positions are located - - where these jobs require a professional chemist background.

While the job classes are broadly prescribed, individual positions frequently require specialization (examples above). Beyond the entry level, positions typically require professional training and/or experience in specific area(s) of chemistry, and employee selection will be made on this basis.

Any Chemist position may be required to lead the work of laboratory assistants (nonprofessional, and/or professional assistants at higher levels) or work performed by field personnel, e.g., sample collecting and shipment, routine on-site testing procedures or the like. Lead responsibilities may be assigned on an intermittent or permanent basis, and are limited to a small number of assistants at any time, unless otherwise specified in the following descriptions.

#### Distinguishing Characteristics:

Chemist I is the entry and trainee professional class, characterized by:

- close supervision and review of work by experienced personnel.
- assignment of standard, common, less complex and frequently repetitive analyses.
- assignment of segments of studies to assist higher level staff.
- work performed following established methodology, precedent studies, and/or detailed instructions.
- application of commonly used quantitative and qualitative methods, procedures and instrumentation.
- instructions provided as to the methodology, instrumentation and documentation to be used.

Assignments are planned to provide training in administrative policies and regulations, and in the technical programs, laboratory techniques and procedures of the agency; to provide knowledge of pertinent source materials; to advance incumbent's knowledge of the subject matter area with which the laboratory is concerned and ability to promote to a higher level of performance.

**Examples of Duties:****Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

Knowledge of basic theories, principles, facts and units of measurements in chemistry.

Working knowledge of basic principles of mathematics and physics, and the ability to relate these to laboratory assignments.

Ability to apply a knowledge of chemical structure, reactions and properties in order to determine deviations from the norm.

Ability to use standard laboratory techniques, instruments and methods.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Graduation from college with a major in chemistry.

**Required Job Qualifications:**

(The special note is to be used to explain any additional information an applicant might need in order to understand or answer questions about the minimum qualifications.)

**Special Note:****Minimum Qualification Questions:**

Do you have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college with a major in chemistry?